WICKLOW UNION.

A COPY of the MEMORIAL to the LORD LIEUTENANT of *Ireland* from Parishioners of the UNION of WICKLOW.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,* 30 *March* 1831.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY,

Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland.

May it please Your Excellency,

WE, the undersigned inhabitants of the Union of Wicklow, beg leave to approach Your Excellency with the following statement of facts, and supplication for redress.

The Union of Wicklow became vacant on the 6th of January 1830, by the death of Doctor Dealtry, and according to the well known wish of Government, and the best interests of the Established Church, the Archbishop of Dublin signified his intention of dividing the Union, by instituting a correspondence and interviews with the Reverend Doctor Fletcher, who supplied him with maps, valuations and divisions of said Union, which proved it to contain above 32 square Irish miles, and above 22,000 Irish acres of the most peaceable country in Ireland. The Archbishop gave Doctor Fletcher every reason to suppose that he would appoint him to the parish of Killiskey, of which he had been curate for twelve years, for a number of which years he received no salary whatever, and for the remainder only about half of a curate's salary. He intimated to him that he would make use of his documents with a view to a separation, and hoped that he would get what he could for Killiskey; desired him to take no further trouble until he again wrote to him, which would be after the usual period of such matters lying before the Privy Council; but it appears, from the Archbishop's statement to the Privy Council, dated after these communications with Doctor Fletcher, that His Grace changed his mind with respect to him, and laid before Government a statement diametrically opposed to truth and fact, as will appear from the following:

1st, The Archbishop states the Union to contain only 17,000 acres, whereas the best possible map, then in his possession, proves it to contain above 22,000 Irish acres.

2dly, The Archbishop states the Union to consist of only three parishes, viz. Drumkey, Kilpoole, and Wicklow, whereas it contains six parishes, of which Drumkey and Kilpoole are the least considerable, and the parish of Wicklow never existed; and the Archbishop was at the time in possession of a statement from the Sequestrator containing all the names of the several parishes, with their value, constituting what is commonly called the Union of Wicklow.

3dly, The Archbishop states the Union *will be* worth 909 *l.*, whereas Doctor Fletcher's valuation was 1,500 *l.*; and the Archbishop's son has since declared that he will not compound for a less sum than 1,600 *l.* a year, exclusive of the glebe lands, which are worth upwards of 200 *l.* per annum: and even the Sequestrator's valuation was upwards of 1,200 *l.* a year.

4thly, The Archbishop states that the glebe lands are only eight acres one rood and three perches, whereas they amount to above 50 Irish acres: and the Archbishop states further, that there are but three small houses, whereas there are *fourteen* houses on the glebe premises, one of which pays 30 *l.* a year.

5thly, The Archbishop states that a very great proportion of the Union consists of mountain and marsh, woodlands and barren heath, and with little population,

 whereas

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whereas the proportion of such land is comparatively small, and the population unusually great.

6thly, The Archbishop states that the parishes of Drumkey and Kilpoole are not contiguous, whereas they do join, and there is no such parish as Wicklow intervening; and he also states that they would not be sufficient to maintain a clergyman, as a reason for adding the remainder of the Union, which contains *four* other parishes, the names of which he did not state before the Privy Council, although they are the largest and most valuable of the Union, and have no impropriate tithes whatever, and for three of which unnamed parishes his son has already refused above 1,000 *l.* per annum, under the Composition Act. He also states that Killiskey or Glenely are only chapels of ease, whereas his son refused 350 *l.* as a distinct parish for the former, which has had an independent vestry, &c., ever since the church was built; and he has agreed to compound with the latter for 330 *l.* per annum.

7thly, Because Archdeacon Magee is making exorbitant demands for tithes upon a Union, which he only obtained by his father having misled the Privy Council as to the number, value, and extent of the parishes composing said Union, although he has two other parishes, St. John's in Dublin, and the Archdeaconry of Kilmacduagh.

We therefore humbly entreat Your Excellency will cause inquiry to be made into a grievance which affects the best interests of religion, truth and justice, which involves a very great private wrong, and a very great public discontent and disrepute to the Established Church, in a district where the revenues of the clergy were collected with facility and satisfaction when demanded. Petitioners were not aware till within the last few weeks (when the Archbishop's statement to the Privy Council was made a public document) that the present state of things was the result of His Grace's elaborate statement; and although Petitioners drew up a Memorial complaining of this grievance to the late Government, it was suppressed by Doctor Fletcher, from a reluctance to expose this corruption in the Church, but remains still in our possession to be produced if required.

We, the undersigned Petitioners, having every reason to believe that the statements of the foregoing Petition are founded in fact, and considering them as forming a just ground of inquiry, do submit them to the consideration of Your Excellency, for whatever redress Your Excellency can afford. And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c. &c.

(signed) *Charles Tottenham*, Ballycurry.
William Enlis, Kiltimon.
Charles Tottenham, jun., Ballycurry.
Henry William Crofton, Inchinappa.
Robert U. Truell, Clonmannan.
Thomas Fox, Kilmartin.
Arthur Stanley Bride, Broomfield.
Thomas Revell, Laughlin.
Daniel Tighe, Ropana.
Robert Bride, Broomfield.
Henry John Bryan, Ballinapark.
Isaac Ambrose Eccles, Cronroe.

Asford, 12 February 1831.

So far as the above Memorial depends upon my authority and evidence for any of its statements, I certify that it is strictly and literally true.

(signed) *John Joseph Fletcher.*

(A true Copy.)
C. W. Flint.

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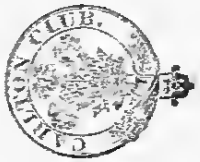

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